

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

1 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Robinson (Chair); Councillors Deacon, Mrs Grady, Mrs Moorhouse and Peat.

Also in attendance: One member of the public and two members of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk) and Mrs Woodward (Deputy Clerk).

41. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Cooke and Mr R Welsby.

Resolved – That Councillor Cooke's and Mr Welsby's apologies be accepted.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 72(a)/Sep/12 refers), Members were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members were reminded that a declaration could be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

43. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 OCTOBER 2014 – MINUTES

Resolved – That the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.

44. COMMUNITY EVENTS:

(i) 2014 Autumn/Winter Events

Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on Event

It was confirmed that the arrangements for this event, scheduled for Friday 5 December, were in hand. Publicity for the event was sought through the local press and posters displayed in various locations around town. Flyers for distribution to pupils at local schools had been produced and delivered. Volunteers were sought to help with the clean-up operation after the event. It was reported that the Methodist Church had had a new carpet laid and had requested visitors to be respectful.

Victorian Christmas Event

It was confirmed that the arrangements for this event, scheduled for Saturday 6 December on Scar Top, incorporating Victorian entertainment, crafts and activities between 11am to 3pm, a Mayoral Community Carol Service at 4.30pm and culminating with a firework display at 6pm, were all in hand. Councillor Moorhouse advised that at 4pm mulled wine and mince pies would be served in the marquee on Scar Top.

As a result of submitting a notification to the DCC Safety Advisory Group (SAG, the county council Assets Team had sought to levy a £50 event licence fee to use Scar Top in line with its revised policy. Following a challenge, the fee had been waived for this year. It was noted that the licence fee would be applied in future.

Councillor Peat reported that leaves needed clearing on Scar Top prior to the event. Durham County Council would only clear leaves on paths. Volunteers were sought to remove leaves from the grass.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That arrangements be made to remove leaves from Scar Top on Thursday 4 December.

(ii) Mayoral Christmas Card Competition

It was confirmed that the all entries had been judged and three winning designs (one from each of KS1, KS2 and KS3) selected. The winners had been informed and invited to attend a formal presentation at the town Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on Event.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) Remembrance Sunday

Positive feedback had been received in respect to the arrangements for 2014's Remembrance Sunday. The event was very well supported by all sectors of the community with over twenty wreaths and numerous crosses laid at the memorial.

Resolved – That this Council's thanks be extended to all those individuals and organisations involved on the day.

(iv) Medieval Day 2015

The Clerk attended a meeting on 27 November with members of the Northern Dales Richard III Group. Arrangements by the Group for a weekend of events on 4 and 5 July 2015 were in place. The committee had been requested to agree support for holding a medieval day event on Scar Top on 4 July to be part of this weekend.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That the committee agrees a budget of £600 be set aside to support a medieval day on 4 July 2015.

45. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DISPLAY 2014/15

Lighting Display

It was confirmed that the council's Christmas lighting contractor (Lamp Lighter) had completed erection of the lighting display starting week commencing 24 November. Eleven lights had been reported as needing repairs, which had been actioned with the county council.

Councillor Robinson raised the issue of lighting the Market Cross. It was noted that this would be dealt with at the next meeting of the Services Committee. Durham County Council had estimated costs exceeding £11,000. It was noted that a solution would not be in place for Christmas 2014.

Christmas Trees

It was confirmed that the town's Christmas tree was transported and installed at the end of November together with a tree situated at St Mary's Parish Church both with the much appreciated help of the usual team of volunteers.

Crib

It was confirmed that the Crib in had been installed in the grounds of the Methodist Church on 1 December.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

46. POPPY APPEAL

The 2013 Poppy Appeal closed on 30 September 2014. It was confirmed by The Royal British Legion that the final total raised in the district was £11,770.05.

It was reported that, in just the two-week Remembrancetide period, a total of £11,027.22, had been raised, an increase of £1,753.34 compared with the same point last year.

Thank you cards had been distributed to all those organisations and businesses who took part detailing the individual amounts raised.

Resolved – That this Committee's thanks be extended to all those individuals and organisations and businesses involved in the successful co-ordination of the Appeal during the Remembrancetide period. A special thanks is also extended to Yvette Farren, Services Officer.

47. ROAD CLOSURE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Further to Minute 52(3)/Feb/14, investigation had been made with Durham County Council as to whether training could be obtained to enable the town council, or its appointees to implement traffic management controls and any road closures associated with events, given that the costs of acquiring these services from one of the county council's approved contractors are proportionally significant. Eight places have been offered to the town council or other community representatives.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That Councillors Moorhouse, Deacon, Robinson and Grady expressed an interest in the training.

48. BARNARD CASTLE VINTAGE RALLY GROUP

Submitted: a request for the Town Council to become associated with the Barnard Castle Vintage Rally Group. It is the group's intention to develop the annual event to 'its former position as one of the top vintage events in the North East'. The group considered it very important to develop a good working relationship within the local area to enable it to become an essential part of the communities in which it operates. The group had requested a meeting to outline its proposals and to develop a working relationship with the town council.

Resolved – That the Clerk organise a presentation by the Group at the next Partnership Committee Meeting on 9 February 2015. An invitation should be extended to the Bowes Museum and the Guild.